their copper only from their plant food. In view of this fact about a dozen species of plants were incinerated. In all cases, whether the portion incinerated was taken from the stem, or the leaves, or fruit, the ash reacted positively.

In general, copper was present only in traces in plants, not at all in amounts comparable to that present in insects. It is probable that the copper ion is inactive in plants, that its presence is due to mechanical storage, and that it plays no active rôle in the physiology of the plant.

It is evident, however, from the experiments performed, that copper is widely distributed in both the plant and animal world. In the former it is present only in traces, and probably inactive, while in the latter it is present in measurable quantities and its rôle appears to be active.

A more detailed account of these investigations will be published in the near future.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC QUALIFICATIONS

The Right Hon. F. D. Acland recently asked in the House of Commons, as we learn from *Nature*, whether the lord president of the council "is aware that dissatisfaction is being expressed by scientific workers with the appointment of a man without scientific qualifications as director of research to the Glass Research Association; whether, as the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research provides four fifths of the funds of the association, the department was consulted before the appointment was made; and does he approve of the appointment as giving a guarantee that state funds devoted to scientific research will be wisely expended?" Mr. Fisher replied to the question, and his answer included the following statements, which concerned a director for the work called from the United States: (1) The successful candidate has a wide and successful experience of scientific research into the problems of the glass industry, and is considered by the association to be the man best suited for organizing and directing the research needed by it. (2) The responsibility for the selection of a director of research rests in each case with the research association concerned, and not with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which has no power to approve or disapprove the appointment of any individual. (3) The department guarantees three quarters of the expenditure of the research association up to a certain limit, but payment of the grant is conditional, among other things, on the approval by the department of the program of research and of the estimate of expenditure thereon. (4) The advisory council of the department, after considering all the relevant circumstances with great care, recommended the approval of the expenditure involved in this director's appointment.

ELECTIONS BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The scientific program of the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, held in Washington on April 25, 26 and 27, has been printed in Science, and other information concerning the meeting will be published later.

At the business session of April 27, the president of the academy, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, presented his resignation, but at the earnest request of the academy, he consented to serve the remaining two years of his term. The resignation of the foreign secretary, Dr. George E. Hale, was accepted with regret, and with the expression of high appreciation of his able work in that office. Dr. R. A. Millikan was elected foreign secretary, to complete the unexpired term of Dr. Hale. Dr. Hale was elected a member of the council, and Dr. Raymond Pearl was reelected.

The following were elected to membership:

Frank Michler Chapman, American Museum of Natural History.
William LeRoy Emmet, General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y.
William Draper Harkins, University of Chicago.
Ales Hrdlicka, United States National Museum.